Sept 9 } Friday. m. cloudy
wind N E. — last night
rain   For a num-
ber of days the weather has
been warm for the season.—
the day generally cloudy
with some rain.
This day there a wind
dry a sugar flood in our
meadow from the last night
rain, which must have
left the river. These
floods are now over
our meadow.

10 Saturday. m. cloudy.
wind N E.; last night
rainy, and the flood
continues. elevated
most of the day rainy
Miss Mary Rice has of
late been faithful as
visited me. about a fortnight past
[illegible]

Nov
Oct. [illegible] my cloudy [illegible]
10. Saturday [illegible]
[illegible]

11. Sunday. m. cloudy
wind N.W. [illegible] the [illegible]
fair at night

My son Arthur writes us that he has had a touch of fever & ague. Probably effect of the Miasm of the Lake. !

12 Monday. m. fair
wind N.W. and day fair

Died last night my neighbor Dr. Joseph Goodwin after a protracted confinement

This day [illegible] State officers [illegible]

which the papers seem to be right

State of the polls [illegible]
George N. Briggs Gov.
John Reed Lt. Gov.

Octr 12. Opposition. George S. Boutwell Governor
Henry [illegible] Lt Gov.
Free Soil Phillips Gov.
John Mills Lt Gov.
Town Representatives Haven
Lovering & Tenney Dwight 15
No choice, & meeting adjourned until to morrow. In these elections the parties evinced an ordinance & design unfavorable to pure liberty, and preclude [illegible] reflection.

13. Tuesday. m: fair, [illegible] and day; same wind; [illegible]
At the adjourned meeting
Day, The Abercrombie
1. the Ogr and
was chosen Representative also to the Court by a vote of 149 (as Democrat)
The Election has been spirited, the Whig ticket well sustained, and the

Nov. 13

with ultra principles of democracy held in check. May we persevere in a correct course, & prove that liberty is not licentiousness, nor Jacobinism anarchy.

14 Wednesday; a.m. fair, wind E. and the day fair & pleasant

15 Thursday; a.m. pleasant cloudy wind N.W. 1

For several days the weather has been fair & warm

18 Tuesday a.m. fair wind N.W.; the day

Some efforts have been made the week past to get up a Lyceum. Institutions of this kind, would be more useful, if the people were more instructed in elementary knowledge. From a want of this, they are unable to judge of the principles of science, & are very easily led into error. In general to become learned we must "seek science in her coy abode" & at the midnight lamp.

Mr Henry Williams from Boston has delivered several lectures, & the Rev Mr Moor of this town one, to be followed by others I wish them success in the attempt.

Novr 17 { Saturday; m. fair; wind N. Latter part of the day cloudy.

18 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind N. rain all day.

19 { Monday Morn; cloudy & rainy, wind N.E. and the day rainy.

During my illness I am obliged to resort to an Amanuensis in continuing my journal, but as I have not been in the habit of communicating my thoughts in this way I shall be brief, and unmethodical, and many of the topics of the day seem to demand little attention. If we examine the newspapers, we often find them replete with trifles, and puerilities, which the man of taste is willing to avoid and this peculiar taste of the people produces superficial knowledge, which by no means is expanding to the mind. Thus elementary principles are neglected, & natural philosophy kept at a low ebb, and the grand works of nature lost sight of in the distractions of political pursuits

Now
under these circumstances I am
sometimes let to believe, that the
great body of the people are not
making much progress in useful
knowledge. We indeed have men
of genius among us, but they are
confined to comparatively few.

20) Tuesday Morn, cloudy and rainy,
Wind North. And the day the same

22) Wednesday Morn - Fair - Wind
N. the day fair -
Last evening Mr. Crittenden delivered
a Lyceum address, on the Ocean, in
which he treated of its properties, & operations,
and am informed, gave general satisfaction
tion to his hearers. The subject admits
of great latitude, and demands much
of the attention of the philosopher,
and the researches of the profound
French Astronomer LaPlace, have thrown
much light on the subject, in some
particulars where Newton had been
less complete. We commend the study
to Mr Crittenden, and others of a
classical taste, who I think are
sometimes engrossed in Grecian &
Roman technology, and offuscates in the
of elucidating subjects.
22) Thursday Morn, Fair - Wind N.
the day fair. Elizabeth & Charles
and perhaps Arthur, think of starting
to day from Vergennes for Deerfield.

Nov) Upwards of two years have elapsed since they left us, & a visit from them will be very acceptable, but they will find me in a low condition, feeble, and almost helpless, depending on the kindness of my friends, and particularly my daughter Isabella who stays with me much of ~~the~~ time — Other connexions furnish me with various conveniences! which alleviate my days of sickness but without one promising symptom of recovery. Eighty four years, which I am closely approaching, is a fatal disease for most men. Instances of this kind occur, when men of this age retain their active powers but in general "Crothar's ~~the~~ eyes ~~of the bard~~ had failed", "he leans forward on his staff — Bright in her locks before him, Sulmalla listened to the tale, the tale of the kings of Atha, in the days of old. The noise of battle had ceased in his ear: & he stopt, to raise the secret sigh" — Ossian — Such is the fate of the old — when nature ceases to afford her benevolent aid to decaying man.

"And if to suit some wise design,
I must afflicted be
Then man my soul with firm desires,
To bear & not repine."

23) Friday Morn Cloudy — Wind S.W. — the day Fair

Last Evening Joseph Henry of Halifax made me a call, & started for home this this morning. Esq Henry of Halifax informs me that the legislature of Vermont at its first session had granted a Charter

(nov) of a railroad from Burlington up the lake to form a junction with the Ogdensburg route. This he says is by compromise between the Ruttand and Central routes. When this road is completed all the required ones in New England will I think be accomplished excepting that from Greenfield to Troy through the Hoosac Mountain which may remain as an eutopian mark of the false zeal of imagination and shew us at least that projects of this kind rest on probability. A tunnel through four or five miles of mountain is obviously visionary and none but visionary men could have projected it; and if such a Simm's hole were bored, I should be as unwilling to enter it, as the fatal black hole at Calcutta which destroyed so many lives in one night by its deleterious effects. Let our Railways be constructed on the surface of the ground or remain unknown. Short tunnels may be resorted to in certain cases, but circumstances seldom require construction.

24) Saturday M. Fair Wind N.W. and day Ensone, fair. The weather remains warm for the season. ~~That~~ evening My son Arthur & his wife, with little Charles arrived at our house, two days from Vergennes, by way of Brattleboro & Greenfield they now have their quarters at Vergennes and are employed in gravelling & sanding the Rail road, which is now in operation to Cuttingsville about __ mile The grading of the road over Mount Holly will be finished by the last of the year. During the operation of the Cholera there were several cases & some deaths in

20)
Burlington, more it is believed than was reported in the papers. They represent the village as not remarkably healthy Consumptions seem to prevail & some cases of fever & ague; the place seems to be increasing probably from the spring given it by the rail Road - It now remains to continue the road from Burlington up the Lake to Rouse's Point to form a junction to the Ogdensburg route when there will be a grand opening to the city of Boston.

25) Sunday M. cloudy Wind North and day cloudy and some rain. In the afternoon Isabel returned home & Elizabeth took her place both as an attendant & amanuensis in which I fear I shall prove a task for her.

26) Monday M fair wind N.W. & the day fair the weather still remains mild - Our friends from Burlington say there has been several small falls of snow there covering the ground but the weather not very cold the weather they think at that place in winter is more severe than with us, many of the inhabitants make use of double windows to keep up a milder temperature during the cold season but this temperature will always be governed by the influence of the lake Fish are taken in abundance from the lake and streams, such as Pike Bass Pickeril &c which afford much agreeable food for the inhabitants a convenience of which we are deprived On the whole the borders of the lake afford a pleasant country excepting in the winter & by its facilities of Quick

Roads affords an easy communication to other parts of our country What! a progress has been made in the state since my recollection when the rude savage and the rough wild game roamed at large over its surface and produced a ~~set~~ race of men as rough as its mountains and who have now established a rational system of government and brought the state into notice in the Federal ~~government~~ union

27) Tuesday M- fair, wind west, day pleasant my son Arthur took the Cars for the New City Ireland at ~~sth~~ Hadley Falls to view the progress making at that place which now excites considerable attention the success of the ~~progress~~ of so many ~~projects~~ schemes of this kind in New England have appeared to me doubtful but such is the rage for them that to doubt their success would be impudence but the encouragement of agriculture appear to me to be paramount & so long as England is the workshop of the world perhaps America is better employed in furnishing the raw materials for that purpose as suggested by Mr Jefferson in his notes on Virginia. England however seems to have arrived at its utmost height in this respect and N England may ... become the work-shop my son on his return reports that the appearance of the new City are favorable & that it will at length become a great place of business

28) Wednesday M- fair wind west day fair At the request of my friends I this day sett for a Daguerreotype picture which

the Artist took home to Greenfield to finish. these memorials may be gratifying to our descendents and ~~prolong~~ preserve ~~these~~ the remembrances of them if my life has been deserving of such memorials my friends are better qualified to judge them I am all I can say is, to err, is human, to forgive divine In the afternoon we had a small sprinkling of snow & Arthur Williams arrived from Boston friends all well

(29th) Thursday M— fair wind south west & day This day is what we call thanksgiving an old custom derived from our fathers which might perhaps be as well omitted without any real loss to piety man however has much cause for thanksgiving in every provision of nature but it requires an expanded mind to appreciate duly the grandeur and sublimity of these works. and without something of an Astronomical view of the laws of the universe mans conceptions must be very limited" & like the untutored mind of the savage who thought to stay ... as the solar walk or milky-way"

"To thee whose temple is all space,
Whose alter earth, sea, skyes
One chorus let all beings raise
All natures incense ~~rise~~ rise

Where sentiments like these prevail among the people they cannot be far short the pure religious character At evening my friend Mr Lincoln introduced a Gentleman to me from Hingham by the name of Bates who is said to be a very

accurate historian. Mr Bates gave us many reminiscences of old subjects evincing the accuracy of his recollections.

30th) Friday M— cloudy wind west day cloudy & the air a little more cool. Our young people propose a thanksgiving ball this evening; tho my dancing days are over I wish them to be merry and wise by these social meetings a spirit of friendship is preserved not useless in society

December 1st) Saturday M— cloudy wind west day cloudy until towards night.

2d) Sunday M— fair wind north-east day fair

3d) Monday M— cloudy with snow the ground covered with snow wind north-east & day stormy, This day the ~~session~~ session of Congress assembles at Washington; the business it is supposed will be important for the slavery parties ~~will~~ will be warmly engaged & should revolutionary movements be the consequence it would not be strange & the nations of Europe who are hostile to our welfare may rejoice at this state of things let us hope however that our love of slavery may not destroy our liberty we may now see the action of our President on a crisis & we trust he will act with firmness to be at the head of the nation at such a crisis is not enviable the southern states it is said talk strongly of a disolution of the Union but we think there welfare will prevent such a measure. This morning my son Arthur set out for Vergennes by the way of Boston & Elisabeth with Charles remain with us to dispense of her care for one. On his departure

On his departure he left me 30 dollars
towards expenses of my sickness.
4th) Tuesday M— cloudy wind north-east
day cloudy. The Boston papers relate a
shocking murder that took place in
Cambridge last week John W. Webster
Professor of Chemistry in Harvard College
is charged with the murder of Dr
Parkman of Boston at the College building
the circumstances are not yet fully
developed but they are dark enough
they are to come before a Jury of inquest
& doubtless will exhibit a scene of horror
to account for such a scene of corruption
as this in a man of Dr Websters standing
is difficult & we hardly know what to say
on the subject further, than it must have
been done in a fit of passion doubtless
we shall have full details of the sad
affair which it is said has thrown
Boston into a great excitement
5th) Wednesday M— cloudy wind south-west
day snow has fallen most of the day winter
it appears has commenced
6th) Thursday M— cloudy wind south-west
day cloudy the high murder at Boston
produces great excitement but the facts
are slow in developing & tryes my
patience the case presents elevated
men in a new point of view & is
scarcely paralleled in the history of
man that a high officer in Harvard
College should have been capable of
such a crime is beyond my conception
we wait with impatience to hear the
result of the Jury of inquest
7th) Friday M— fair wind west day pleasant th

Jury of inquest on the case of Dr Webster & Parkman are now sitting; it is said the examination is not to be publick but this variation from ~~common~~ common practice can hardly be justified by the peculiarities of the case. In the practice of law much depends on the uniformity of ~~practice~~ proceedings & should not be readily varied from. That an atrocious murder has been committed is evident & that Dr Webster should be exempted from the ~~common~~ common course is obviously improper that he is inocent of the crime we hope but where are the grounds of this hope we perceive none & fear it will turn out to the guilt of Dr Webster with all its atrocities. if the crime was committed by some other person it is not less atrocious nor pernicious in society, may the course of the examination be a wise one & crime be brought to light whether committed in high or low life, we deplore the fate of Dr Webster & regret that circumstances render it possible nay probable that he should have committed such a crime while we are thus waiting the result of the government in this case we are anxiously looking for President Taylors message to Congress in relation to the present affairs of the United States which appear rather ominous. A division of the union may be nearer than is apprehended or the threats of the sothern states ... intended merely to alarm the northern people great caution is necessary in the present Congress & may there proceedings turn out for the best

8th) Saturday M - cloudy wind north-west day cloudy our papers give us little that is new in regard to the horid murder of Dr Parkman we expect nothing of importance until the Jury of inquest are through with there examination: the ~~examination~~ transaction presents a character different from what we had sought for in the northern States or among any civilised people we wait with impatience for the verdict of the Jury

9th) Sunday M- cloudy wind north-east day stormy we have in vain looked for the Presidents message to Congress during the week past as yet no speaker in the house of Representatives is elected & of course other business is retarded The President it is likely will make a full developement of the affairs of the United States & it is hoped activated of a spirit of conquest. Slavery must be managed & whether the Presidents schemes may be successful we cannot say the southern people seem obstinate in there course & whether they will give up slavery or the Union is a question

10th) Monday M- cloudy wind west day cloudy

11th) Tuesday M- fair wind west day very pleasant This day Mr Popkins the Architect having failed of getting a satisfactory picture of me came again today to renew the attempt & succeeded according to his wishes & took the pictures home to finish Mr Popkins informs me that his machine gives off no colours of the Prism other than lights & shades I had supposed the Prismatic colours were displayed by the process which if not

~~left here~~ thirty dollars ~~towards my~~
~~sickness &~~

12) December

and endowed with chimical affinity he
says that no two days of the season will
give precisely the same tints but depends
upon the different degrees of light & the
preperation of the materials used the
process is wonderfull — will the picture be
durable?. My nephew Arthur Williams
sent me to day a box of sweet water
grapes most luscious fruit from the
Mediterranean ~~&c~~

12) Wednesday Morn Fair Wind N W —
& the day very fair — This morning Elizabeth
& little Charles left us for Halifax with
his brother William who pass'd the
night with us — Elizabeth received a
letter from Arthur last night ~~announcing~~
~~of~~ his safe arrival in Burlington —
health improved — Isabell takes her place
No message from the President at Congress
has appeared at the present session, so the
failure of one cog in the political machine
to obstruct all the business of the Union,
suppose this condition continues where is the
remedy even monarchies are not subject to
such embarassments & a free government
should not feel them much business no
doubt is on hand and should be in progress

13) Thursday Morn — Cloudy — Wind N — the
day rather cloudy — My sickness still continues and
I depend much upon the aid of my friends &
no very convalesent symptoms appear and
whether I shall recover my health is altog-
ether doubtful — my age perhaps forbids the
expectation. Life is desirable so long as it

Dec) useful, but after that it is a question, whether it is desirable. Man in a healthy state has much to enjoy, & far am I from believing that the Deity has created him wrong or at war with his laws.
A natural propensity to evil imparted to man by his Creator, would take away the crime of action, and vice and virtue would have no existence. The dogma that man is totally depraved from his birth, ought never to have been introduced into theology, & until eradicated, will forever keep man in a degraded state. The efforts of Unitarians in expunging this fungus of Christianity, have done much, yet much remains to be done before man can be placed in his original dignity. When the five points of Calvinism are eradicated, Theology may be a rational study for Philosophers. My sickness has been attended by apparent fatal symptoms, but if it were not miraculous, I should flatter myself that my vital functions were increasing their energy. "This day let bread & peace be my lot,
All else beneath the sun
Thou knowest if best bestowed or not
And let thy will be done."
14) Friday Morn. Some clouds. Wind N.W. & the day cloudy. President Taylor's message still wanting, & of course the business of Congress delayed. Is not this a defect in the constitution; the people may elect a President, & the other branches of Congress and still no business can be transacted without a choice of Speaker to represent the House. Are the wheels of Government to be thus stopped; and the great affairs of the nation remain in Statu quo?

Dec) The great question now to come before Congress, is that of Slavery in California & New Mexico, & may involve us in a servile war. The plan of conquest was marked out by our leading democrats & carried into effect by President Polk & his party; Had we been peaceably disposed this embarrassment would not have occurred & we might have saved our honor without a tarnish. Mr Polks career was a short one but he outlived his usefullness & left his country to mourn its aberation from rectitude. Under Gen Taylor it remains for us to retrieve our error & shew to the world that we are not a nation of Vandalls who seek power from injustice.

15) Saturday - Morn. Fair - Wind West & the day some cloudy. Boston papers give the verdict of the Jury of inquest in the case of the murder of Doct Parkman at Boston & charges the murder on Doct Webster. His innocence is possible, but highly improbable, but not unlikely the jury on trials may not agree on his guilt, & he escape the punishment of the law. We hope justice will be done, & such awful crimes be prevented in future. The case is now entrusted to the Massachusetts laws & may it be wisely conducted & shew that the crime of elevated men is not to pass with impunity. In our Congress a Speaker is still wanting and the parties seem to be in a confused state & the result is doubtful. Mr Winthrop declines standing longer as a candidate, & withdraws his name by a manly declaration to the house.

Dec) 16 - Sunday Morn cloudy with rain & hail - Wind S.W. and the day - stormy -

17) Monday Morn Fair - Wind N.W. - and the day warm & fair - Last night Frederic Wilson slept in my room as a watcher, the first instance of the kind out of the family, in general I have required but little aid during the night, excepting the adjustment of my bed clothes, which have sometimes been troublesome, my prospects are not very flattering, I fear I shall tire the patience of my friends. Mr William Barnard brought me a fine string of Pickerel from Broughtons pond this morning taken through holes cut in the ice - He seems to possess a curious art of Winter fishery entirely unknown to us when young, by which the fishery furnish a good quantity of food, & ought to be more extensively known to the people residing in the vicinity of our ponds.

18) Tuesday Morn Fair - Wind N.W. - and the day very fair & cold -

19) Wednesday Morn Fair Wind N - and the day partially fair then cloudy -
Last evening Rev Doct Willard gave a Lyceum lecture on the Old and New in which he urged a mixture of both as essential & held there might be many improvements introduced. In his close he dwelt upon the orthography of the english language, & held that it should be reformed, so that children might learn it in a short time - The idea is not new, the late Noah Webster attempted something of the kind in his younger days, & published a small dictionary, which was ridiculed by many of our literary characters. The errors in our orthography evidently arise from a to close adherence to derivations from the dead languages & it gives me pleasure to find so an enlightened a man as the Doct inclined to obviate the difficulty which has so pedantically reigned among our classical scholars and which

has very much retarded the progress of pure science. After the readness the question proposed for discussion whether the militia law is not useless and might be laid aside without injury to the public – the discussion merely commenced when it was laid aside for next week. On this subject much may be said, and it appears to me, that a nation can no more exist without coersive laws, than without those regulating civil affairs. The art of war is complex & if laid aside by a nation gives to those who retain it a vast advantage over those who abandon it – The present mode of thinking upon Military subjects are founded so much upon the notion of the perfectability of man. Heaven grant that wars may cease, & that injustice be laid aside. When this disposition shall pervade the union, we may look forward to more glorious times, when none shall make us afraid.

20) Thursday – Morn cloudy. Wind South & the day variable, pleasant) Last night several inches of snow fell which will give us pretty good sleighing.

In Congress no Speaker is chosen in the house, of course the Presidents message is withheld. This as I have already remarked seems to be a defect in the constitution which calls for a remedy. Suppose the following were adopted in the case of a failure to elect a Speaker after a lapse of days from the commencement of the session the old Speaker should take the chair & perform all the duties incumbent upon a Speaker subject however to a new election when the house is prepared for it but not during the passage of any bill before the house. Would not this obviate the difficulty we now experience, if there are objections to such a provision they are less than the present practice, that the

Dec) machine of government should be stopped from the want of an election of a petty officer in one of its branches, is inadmissible in every point of view.

21) Friday - Morn Fair - Wind North West - and the day pleasant My daughter Isabel returns to her home in Bloody Brook after nine days of most faithful assistance - Elizabeth now at Halifax expected to take her place probably ~~to day~~ - to morow"

22.) Saturday morn cloudy wind west day stormy About noon Elizabeth & little Charley returned" from Halifax after an absence of about 11 days. Congress has not yet elected a speaker, & political affairs are at a stand. The present condition of the Government of the United States is like a hunt, in which the hounds are at bay, in the midst of the chase, or perhaps more exactly like a machine which refuses to operate from the want of a cog or spring, Business is on hand, but the machine refuses to operate - Shall this condition continue? We may as well be without a government, The importance attached to a speaker, ought not to exist, and a remedy should be ready & easy.

23d) Sunday Morn Fair - wind west - day pleasant Snow last night fell & is now about six inches deep, the air moderate. Arthur informes us that the Rutland Rail Road is open across Mt Holley to Bellows Falls, & that he has made the trip to that place, of course the whole trip to Boston is now open, we shall now see the competition between the two routes, & which will gain the ascendency is to be ~~proved~~. The route from the Falls to Brattleboro is wanting to complete.

the chain & whether this or the Ashuelot route is to be the one is uncertain. Vermont is now pretty well stripped with iron rails but others are contemplated to connect with the Ogdensburg road. Our Fathers who traversed the woods chasing the Indian were were far from anticipating such a work.

24) Monday Morn stormy wind south west day stormy
In the course of my journal for several years past I have noticed the ~~[illegible]~~ absence of thunder showers in the summer season & particularly of that of the last. This diminution of showers has been so great that our young people seem to have lost sight of their former violence. On a reperusal of William Bartrams travels in south Carolina Georgia & East & west Florida in his tour in the Southern states in 1773 in which I find several descriptions which I have conceived to be sublime & beautiful & I here insert one from his travels page 341 from his Dublin Edition in 1793 I approached a charming vale, amidst sublimely high forests, awful shades! Darkness gathers around; far distant thunder rolls over the trembling hills; the black clouds with august majesty & power, move slowly forwards, shading regions of towering hills, & threatning all the destruction of a thunder storm: all around is now still as death, not a whisper is heard, but a total inactivity & silence seem to pervade the earth; the birds afraid to utter a chirup, in low tremulous voices take leave of each other seeking covert & safety: every insect is silenced & nothing heard but the roaring of the approaching hurricane. The mighty cloud now expands ~~its~~ its sable wings extending from North to South. I is driven

December
irresistibly on by the tumultuous winds, spreading its livid wings around the gloomy concave armed with terrors of thunder & fiery shafts of lightning. Now the lofty forests bend low beneath its fury; their limbs & wavy boughs are tossed about, & catch hold of each other; the mountains tremble & seem to reel about; & the ancient hills to be shaken to their foundation: the furious storm sweeps along, smoking through the vale & over the resounding hills: the face of the earth is obscured by the deluge descending from the firmament, & I am deafened by the din of thunder. The tempestuous scene damps my spirits, & my horse sinks under me at the tremendous peals, and hasten on for the plain. After the shower was over our traveler ascended a neighbouring hill took possession of an Indian cabin where he built a fire & spent the night in repose, his horse having been turned out in the sweet meadows adjoining. To the young people at this day this description may seem an exageration but from my observations it appears to me to be correct, several other descriptions are found in the work not much less sublime, see pages 13, 139, 3&4 Our present thunder showers are but the petty skirmishes of the elements in former times, but this seems to be unknown to our youth, the work of Bartram was written at a time when Botany was little known in this country & was therefore not duly appreciated, it is now comeing into repute, & a later edition with notes would be useful & interesting I am informed that the life of this traveler has recently been written & it is hoped will be duly appreciated by the publick I might ... numerous other extracts not less

December
interesting to the enlightened reader
25) Tuesday morn fair wind north day
fair we have learned that the House
of Representatives has chosen a Speaker
Cobb Esq of Georgia of course the Government
machine is ready for operation
26) Wednesday, morn, fair, wind North west, day
pleasant yesterday Elisabeth went to Blody Rock and
staid over night, leaving me in the care of
Mary Mary The abortive attempts to elect a
Speaker in the House of Representatives,
evince an obstinacy of parties not very favou-
rable to our harmony, & it cannot be expected
that the momentum of the political machine
will ~~not~~ be very powerful under such
a diversity of opinion. Slavery will now be
the principal topic, & whether this will
absorb all others ~~topics~~ we shall see.
Probably the Wilmot Proviso will be set
aside & some others more congenial to the
plan of Mr Polk for the conquest of
North Mexico be adopted, Slavery must
not be touched by Northern interference
& the black race must continue in
there degraded condition, until the
white race shall be renovated by a more
refined philosophy
27) Thursday morn fair wind south day pleasant
The Presidents Message is now to be seen in the paper
& is necessarily of considerable length & I may remark
upon it after a thorough perusal
28) Friday morn cloudy wind south day pleasant
Having heard the Presidents message carefully
read I think I may say that it is an able document
& a pertinent display of the affairs of our country &
those of Europe connected with them The President

appears to be well versed & not confined to mere military operations as has been supposed. Under his administration we have reason to believe the country will be happy & prosperous provided Democratic measures do not gain the ascendency. His sentiments on slavery are not given in the message but we believe are not wholly southern.

29) Saturday morn stormy wind north west day stormy

30) Sunday morn fair wind west day pleasant

31) Monday morn pleasant wind west day cloudy. This day closes the year 1849, & being my birth day I enter upon the 85th year of my age, my state of health for about five months past has been precarious, & I have little expectation of regaining my former condition, my age forbids this, & I must submit to the laws of nature. For about I have kept a sort of Journal, embracing the most important events, but my impaired hearing & sight, & the loss of the power of my lower limbs, render it difficult for me to continue the Journal in a regular ~~series~~ series, for the future, I shall notice only remarkable events, & occurrences, ~~as they~~ transpire, & this by the aid of an Amanuensis. In my Journal will be found a great variety of subjects, many no doubt will be deemed trifling, if not unworthy of notice, I wish my son to keep them in his possesion but do not prohibit him from imparting ~~to~~ applicants any information they may contain useful to the publick, I wish the originals to be saved from segars smokers, or other similar purposes, no one it is presumed, will have the patience to look them over attentively, perhaps the greatest value they possess will be the dates of events

January 1st, 1850

1st) Tuesday morn, cloudy, ~~A new year~~ wind north, day
The present state of the world presents novelties of a singular character, & what will be the result is the test of history, & it is hoped that this will present more satisfactory scenes than those of former times, one thing I think we may predict with a considerable degree of certainty; viz, that the governments of the nations of the world will undergo revolutions until monarchies be extinct & a sort of republicanism be established, but how far these revolutions will ameliorate the condition of man is not certain, perfection is not to be expected from imperfect man, & the efforts of demagogues since our revolution show that much will remain in fault, & that we are far from a milenial state, let us hope that man will become more rational, & better fitted for free governments

2) Wednesday morn cloudy wind day cloudy
This day the Legislature sets at Boston, for organisation, and legislation, probably the organisation will take up some time, as is usual in these times of *wise* projects

3) Thursday morn cloudy wind west day cloudy
While I remain a little more comfortable my eye sight is still defective, & renders me incapable of reading or writing, a great deprivation of one of my former habits, am I thus to be deprived of the use of my library? which has heretofore given me so much aid? & bid farewell to the scenes that have delighted me. I like the Poet Burns who

"From marking wildly-scattered flowers
As on the banks of Ayr I strayed
And singing lone the lingering hours
I shelter in thy honour'd shade

and if like the Poet ~~Burns~~ he was enamored with the scenes of the banks of Ayr not less so have I been of those of our Pocumtuck winding through our pleasant vale. Must I then bid farewell to these scenes which are now fresh to my memory & like him bid adieu to friends in his own pathetic language.

"Farewell my friends-Farewell my foes
My peace with these-My love with those-

Closeing with his farewell to the bonny banks of Ayr"
nothing strikes me more forcibly than many expressio[ns] of ~~this~~ same ~~poet~~ ~~who~~ "sung the loves, the joys, the rural scenes & rural pleasures of his ~~my~~ native soil ~~also did these things~~ by the dint of his genius," & charmed all men of taste.

4th) Friday morn cloudy wind west day pleasant
Our Legislature have chosen there speakers in the Senate, & House of Representatives, without the embarrassments that ~~others~~ ~~them~~ are found i[n] some of the Legislatures, both branches of the Legisl[ature] are Whigs, & Governor Briggs will soon be placed in the Chair of State,
This success of the Whig party ought to convince [the] others, ~~that~~ there innovations, are futile, & the peop[le] ready to sustain a good government the election of General Taylor may be a check to the spirit of conquest which has so long prevaile[d] & bring them back to ~~ther~~ true interests

5) ~~Saturday~~ Saturday morn pleasant wind west day Last evening John Butlin of this place with a one horse sleigh & two ladies, my sons wi[fe] & Mrs Barker, on a visit to Col Bryants had a narrow escape from a smash from the Rail-roa[d] Cars, at the North Rail road road crossing in Bloo[dy] Brook, nothing was perceived of the approach of th[e] Cars until there light ~~shone~~ warned ~~them~~ of ~~their~~ danger, & on whipping up his horse ~~he~~ barely escape[d]

~~Tuesday~~ Sunday 1st 1850

~~4th) Tuesday morn~~ cloudy wind ~~north day~~

How many of our people are destined to these accidents in the course of a few years. Errors in the case, the silence of the bars, & the approach to the roads, without a strict regard to the time, what a dangerous nuisance these roads have created, fatal accidents of this kind will frequently occur, even with the greatest care. Be these roads distant from my dwelling "I prefer the whispering zephyr & the purling rill" for my evening ~~[struck out]~~ accompaniments & ask not for "flights of 20 miles an hour" The exposure was imminent & the escape most fortunate let it serve as a caution to the inconsiderate

5th) Sunday morn fair wind north-east day

During the week past squadrons of Irish laborers have passed our village for Cheapside, to commence the Rail road from that place to Grouts, the route over rocky mountain is difficult, & the two bridges required expensive, & works of some time

7th) Monday day cloudy & cold My farmer bringing down wood through still water the ice supposed to be sufficiently strong

8th) Tuesday day cloudy & weather mild Snow fell last night about three inches & the whole depth now about – inches Our Rail roads are busy in transporting fuel to various parts of the country & the consequences a high price of the article here woodland has now become expensive & in some instances as high per acre as our meadow land how is this article to be obtained by future generations without the discovery of coal-fields which are rare in New England more care for the construction of dwellings may be necessary

January

January 9th

Wednesday ~~[illegible]~~ day cloudy ~~cloudy~~ and foggy with some snow Joseph Henry and wife who are now here on a visit went to Col Bryants at South Deerfield with Elizabeth their daughter

I hope they will escape the infernal nuisance at the crossing of the rail road – Jane Merrill is now my attendant

The frequent fatal accidents which have occurred on the rail roads render it impossible for me to speak of them with complacency and I consider it fortunate to reside at a distance from them

10th) Thursday Mn fair and pleasant after a friendly visit J Henry and wife set out on their return for Halifax friendly calls give satisfaction Mr Henry continues his old federal principles and of course is opposed to wild innovations in the government

11) Friday Mn – stormy – we may look for a January thaw as is common Mr Moore lays upon my table two small works on astronomy, one intitled the stars & the earth, the other is relating to the system of the World by I. P. Nichol, Professor of Astronomy in the university of Glasgow, both works are interesting to the astronomer, Professor Nichol gives us new views of a Nebular system differing in some particulars from Herschels his work is illucidated with many plates

12) Saturday Mn – foggy; rain last night. The Legislature of Mass is now organized under George N. Briggs whose popularity continues

13) Sunday day pleasant & cold

14th) Monday day pleasant ~~with~~ quite cold, For several days past my indisposition seems to be on the increase, my strength decays, and I require more assistance, my limbs continue to swell & are extremely irritable at times a wash with cider brandy & bitters seem to have alleviated the swelling but at the same time an alteration has taken place in the state of my lungs which indicates that they will become unsound in short there is no probability of my recovery to health & I must submit to the laws of nature this afternoon I have listened to the second chapter of Nichols lectures upon Astronomy

15) Tuesday day fair. Last night a very cold ~~night~~ The Morning Cars brings Isabella to ~~our~~ my house to make me a short call. I regret that I am so troublesome to my friends & cannot promise them relief from my ~~burdens~~ burden but they seem to bear the interruption patiently & I thank them for there parental affection, & kind treatment

17) Thursday day cloudy. My son writes that last week his Engine used for gravelling was smash in pieces between Rutland & Pittsford, by running off the track, the damage considerable & many lives exposed. He was at Burlington at the time, now I enquire whether Rail roads are constructed upon the best principles, that from 20 to 30 thousand dollars a mile, so long as they are liable to so many fatal accidents, if they continue to claim the confidence of the publick it must be from there safety, as well as there rapidity, in short, I think it is a question whether in future they will be considered so beneficial to the publick as is now supposed I hope there may be improvements to obviate the difficulty

18) Friday Morn foggy & the air moderate

19th) Saturday day fair Last evening my son arrived from Burlington by the Brattleboro & Greenfield route His health not very ingy

(continued)
he is still engaged in grading the road
& has been retarded in the business by
a smash of his engine, to say the least
they are a dangerous machine, & demand
improvement to avoid running off the track
were a perpetual motion discovered &
applied to our machinery generally, & as
liable to accidents as Rail roads, it is a
question how far they would be called a bless[ing]
Man was contrived for a walking animal
& without wings he must not expect to
fly, or skim the air,
20) Sunday morn fair
21st) Monday cloudy & snowey day. This morning My son
Arthur set out for Burlington, & expects to
stay on the Rail road until it is finished
the work has been a task, & he seems to
want a respite from the toil; the cons-
truction of long Rail roads I think are
nearly at an end, & if they afford profit
to sustain them they will do well.
22) Tuesday, a part of the day it has snowed,
the afternoon fair
23rd) Wednesday fair, Up to the present day
nothing of consequence has taken place in Congress
or the general court, the parties seem to
be at "bay" & what may be the result we
know not, Slavery no doubt will be the grea[t]
points of contention & it is doubtful whether
our condition will be ameliorated.
Generals Taylors administration thus far,
seems to have allayed the spirit of party,
but the late conquests in Mexico, have left
much on their hands
24) Thursday morn cloudy The mails from
Boston for a day or two have been deranged
by the state of snow & ice this is a cause which
will frequently occur as I had predicted

& is no small objection to Rail roads in
snowy countries indeed where the snow
falls deep & frequent & drifting prevails
these roads must be very uncertain,
communications. Would it be risking much
to say that there reputation at the present
time will be diminished in a few years
25) Friday morn raining day
26th) Saturday day fair very pleasant snow
thawing quite fast
27) Sunday raining) 28) Monday snowed
29 Tuesday morning pleasant
30) Wednesday fair day
31st) Thursday fair last night cold the last
fall of snow about six inches
1st February) Friday fair last evening arrived
at our house from Burlington Nancy
Ireland sent by my son Arthur as a female
assistant in my sickness we to pay her nine
shillings a week and to assist Mrs Rice
in her domestic affairs for her board Nancy
came from Ireland two years next June
her native place Kilkenny age about 28 years
her parents both dead a brother of hers
has been employed by Arthur for several
months past a faithful hand
2d) Saturday cloudy This day the town holds
a public meeting to remonstrate against
the petition of Greenfield for a to setting
off a part of the town to Greenfield an
attempt that was signally defeated a
few years since when Greenfield can
furnish any argument in favor of the measure
one other than it would be for there profit
then it may be time to oppose this selfish
scheme which liberal men would not attem[pt]

Febuery
3d) Sunday morning raing day fair